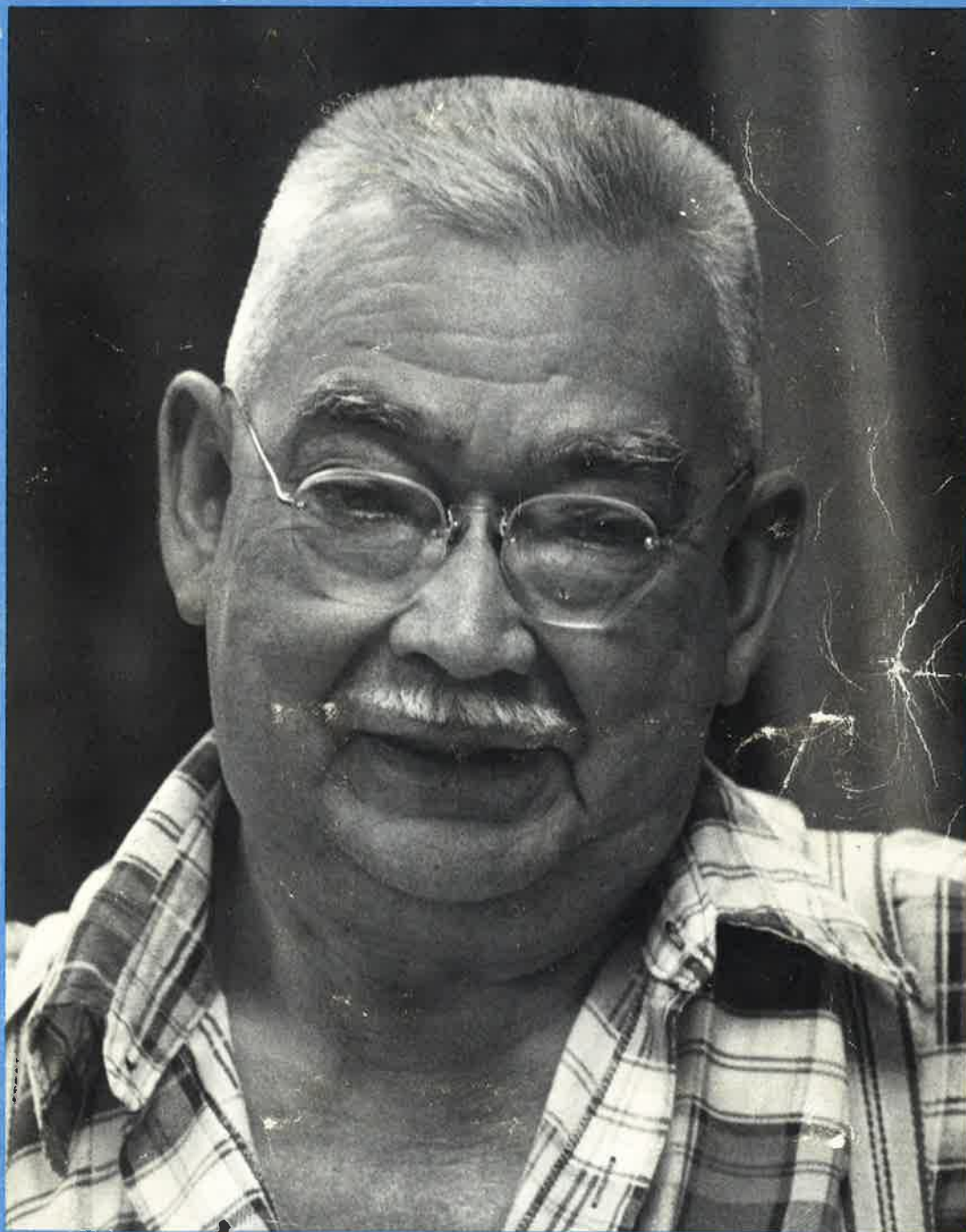




Saltwater People

as told by Dave Elliott Sr.



Native Education

School District 63 (Saanich)

1.1
L



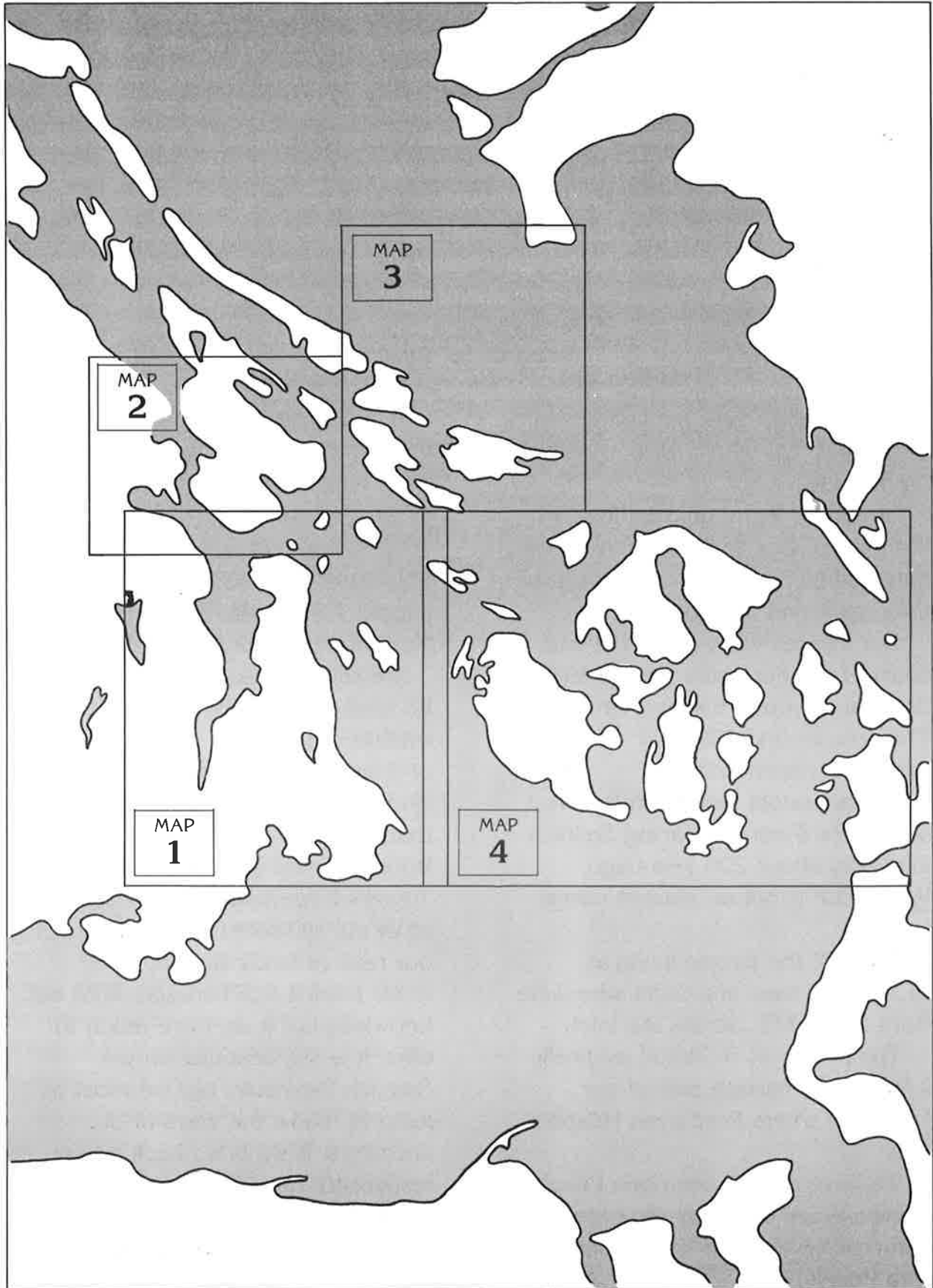
Saanich Placenames

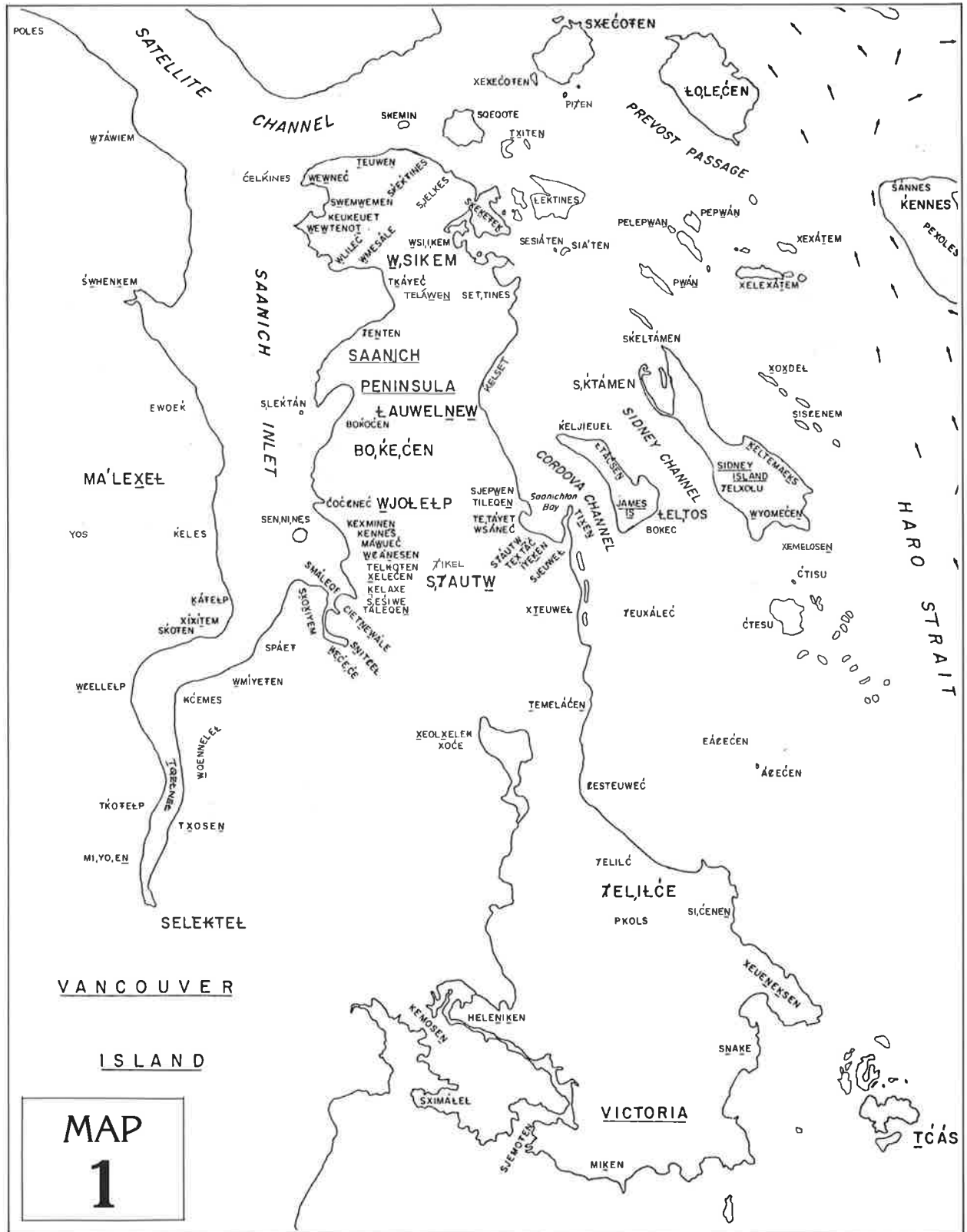
When our first edition of Saltwater People was published in 1983, Dave remarked that there was still a lot of research to do on the Saanich Placenames. There were many more names to add, and many translations to determine. Translations from the Saanich language to English present some difficulties because a language is a way of thinking, or viewing the human experience in the world, as much as it is a way of communicating. All the names have a meaning. They either describe the physical geography, refer to the use or to a story.

Since the Saanich People named the places they knew and used, the placenames represent the extent of traditional territory. The placenames are evidence of occupation and use. Dave continued to research and translate Saanich placenames up to his death. His nephew Earl Claxton Sr. worked closely with him as did Dave's son John and daughter Linda. Earl, John and Linda have continued the work, often consulting with Elders from other families as well as with Earl's mother Elsie Claxton (nee Pelkey) of Tsawout.

In the historic Saanichton Bay Marina case in the Supreme Court of British Columbia 1987, Earl presented a map detailing placenames and uses of sites in Saanich traditional territory.

All of the placenames on the maps and lists in this chapter represent an updated version of the original list and have been verified by Earl Claxton Sr.





MAP
1

Saanich Peninsula
North (East to West)

<u>SENCOTEN</u>	<u>"Translation" and/or Significance</u>	<u>English</u>
<u>KELSET</u>	"bailing"	Reay creek at Bazan Bay
<u>SET,TINES</u>	"chest sticking out"	Sidney
<u>WSI,I,KEM</u>	"small place of clay"	Shoal Harbour
<u>SKEKETEK</u>	"little pass"	Canoe Cove
<u>S,JELKES</u>	"hand sling"	Swartz Bay
<u>SKEKFINES</u>	"chest in the water", a clam digging area	beach across from Piers Island
<u>TEUWEN</u>	"howling", refers to a story	big rock at Lands End
<u>WEWNEĆ</u>	"no back end", a clamming campsite	beach at northwest end of peninsula
<u>ĆELKINES</u>	"up, back from the shore"	Moses Point
<u>SMEWEMEN</u>	"the place of emptiness",	Deep Cove
<u>KEUKEUET</u>	"drumming", from <u>KEUÁTEN</u> ,	Cove south of Coal Point
<u>WEWTENOT</u>	"jump across", refers to a story	Coal Point
<u>WLILEĆ</u>	<u>WLILEĆ</u> gives an image of a tide that goes away out	Towner Bay
<u>WMEŚALE</u>	MESET means "to gather in"	Towner Beach
<u>WSIKEM</u>	"place of clay"	Tseycum
<u>TKAYEĆ</u>	"small closed off area"	spring at Pay Bay slough
<u>TELÁWEN</u>	"season for all"	Pat Bay slough

MAP
1

Saanich Inlet
Saanich Inlet to Todd Inlet

<u>SENĆOTEN</u>	<u>"Translation" and/or Significance</u>	<u>English</u>
TENTEN	"bailer" in Cowichan, has Saanich name on opposite side	Creek at Research Institute
S,LEKTÁN	late Norm William's father's name, from Vi Williams	Dyer Rock off Cole Bay
BOKOCÉN	"earth bluff"	Cole Bay
ĆOCŦNEĆ	"little far away head of the bay"	Henderson Point
ŁÁU,WEL,NEW	"place of escape"	Mt. Newton
WJOLELP	"place of maple leaves"	Saanich Bay (Tsartlip)
SEN,NI,NES	"chest out of the water"	Senanus Island
TITEŦEN	from TITEL "highly valued" and ŦEN "belonging to, to receive" refers to something of spiritual significance	Hagen Beach
KEXMINEN	"place of Consumption plant", seeds used ritually as incense	Hagen Bight
ĶENNES	"whale" - a whale beached itself here once	Mouth of Hagen Creek
MÁWUEĆ	"honoured grandfather"	meadow behind Manny Cooper's
WŦANESEN	"of clam shells", referring to shells left over after eating	Saanich Point (NW corner of West Saanich reserve)
TELKOTEN	"bumped your mouth all over"	Spring west of Verna Henry's
XELEĆEN	from SXELISEN "to back out of water", ("lost earth") older women collected bullheads here in the spring	reef south of KENNES

<u>SENCOTEN</u>	<u>"Translation" and/or Significance</u>	<u>English</u>
<u>KELAXE</u>	"dogs"	Creek by Theresa Smith's
<u>Ś,ESIWE</u>	"urinating" - refers to sound of creek	creek below Gabe Bartleman's
<u>TALEQEN</u>	"water was seeping up"	creek by canoe shed
<u>SMALEQE</u>	"the burial ground"	rocky end of Sluggett point
<u>CIETNEWALE</u>	"owl place", used to be a site where corpses were placed on a platform above the ground	Sluggett Point
<u>TIKEL</u>	"bog" - used to be a bountiful area for collecting foods and materials. When it was drained, Dave Elliott's mother said, "This place will be no more good to us."	fields along Wallace & Stelly's X Road area
<u>SNITCEL</u>	"place of blue grouse"	Todd Inlet
<u>WCECECE</u>	word imitates the sound of dripping water; believed to have been fenced after white settlement from here to other side of Willis Point to isolate cattle in summer	Todd Creek from Hartland Road dump

MAP
1

Saanich Inlet
Willis Point to Saanich Inlet (East)

<u>SENĆOŦEN</u>	<u>"Translation" and/or Significance</u>	<u>English</u>
SXOXIYEM	"still waters", come from SXELISEN "to back out of the water", referring to its appearance at low tide;	Willis Point
SPAĒT	"bear"	boulder at Mackenzie Bight
WMIYĒTEN	"place of deer"	MacKenzie Bight
KĀEMES	comes from Cowichan word for "sore", means "sore face", probably refers to a rock there	Elbow Point
WQENNELEĒ	"looking up"	Finlayson Mt. west face
TXOSEN	"stare into nowhere", refers to a story	southeast end of deep water at Finlayson Arm
TQĒLNEĒ	"to expire", refers to a story about an "Indian Match" that once went out	area at the mouth of Goldstream including the island
SELEKTEĒ	"the people downstream", refers to the Saanich People	Goldstream
MI,YO,EN	"becoming less", referring to the changing route at the mouth of Goldstream	south west side of end of Finlayson Arm
TKOĒĒLP	"bow and arrow plant", Yew tree in Cowichan language indicating their campsite	mid south west side of Finlayson Arm-near Christmas Pt.
WĀELLEĒLP	ELP refers to a tree "Cottonwood tree" in Cowichan language	west side of Finlayson Arm across from Elbow Point

<u>SENĆOTEN</u>	<u>"Translation" and/or Significance</u>	<u>English</u>
SKOTEN	"streams coming together in one mouth", name for bear grass	waterfalls and stream south of McCurdy Point
XIXÍTEM	"place of cod-fish eggs"	McCurdy Point
KÁTELP	a place where sea lions got out of the water, ELP refers to a plant in Cowichan-Spirrea	Sheppard Point
KELES	"cooking", clam digging area	sandy beach between Bamberton and Mill Bay
MÁLEXEŁ	from MEMEXÁŁ, caterpillar referring to a previous infestation	Mill Bay ferry dock
YOS	"caution"	peak of Malahat
EWOEK	"no head", from EWO, "no"; many ancestors of people from Pauquachin came from here	Mill Bay reserve
ŚWHENKEM	"for diving" in Cowichan, from Ernie Rice	river in Mill Bay
WTÁWIEM	"of shell waters"	Hatch Point

MAP
1

Saanich Peninsula

East Saanich/South Saanich to Victoria

<u>SENĆOTEN</u>	<u>"Translation" and/or Significance</u>	<u>English</u>
SJEPWEN	"wart"	Turgoose Point
TILEQEN	"seeping", like water off the bank	location of James Island dock
TE,TÁYET	"little bay"	Shady Creek
WSÁNEĆ	"emerging people", where the name Saanich comes from and the name of the Saanich People	Saanich Peninsula
STAUTW	"houses on top"	Tsawout
TEXTÁC	"bight of stinging nettle"	in the lagoon at Tsawout
ÍYĒKEN	"nice lagoon", <u>KEN</u> describes a protected harbour or lagoon when talking about placenames	little bay at Tsawout on west side of spit
SJEUWEL	"canoes in the bush"	head of the lagoon
TIXEN	"spit", some call it <u>PENAK</u>	Cordova Spit
TWAEN	"cook in a pit"	site of sewage plant
XTEUWEL	"cross ways", refers to drift	Mitchell Flat
TEMELÁĆEN	"earth that has become enough",	Cowichan Head
XEOLXELEK	"drifting along", refers to the small island in the lake	Elk Lake
ØESTEWEĆ	"a beach exposed to the weather"	Cordova Bay beach
TELHĆ	"growing defeat"	Cordova Bay where the creek is
TEL,HĆE	"place of the defeated"	Cordova Bay sand bar

<u>SENĆOTEN</u>	<u>"Translation" and/or Significance</u>	<u>English</u>
PKOLS	"white head"	Mount Douglas
SI,ĆENEN	"becoming Saanich"	Gordon Head
XEUENEKSEN	"the point of cracking sea urchins"	Ten Mile Point
SNAKE	"of snow", refers to a story	Cadboro Bay/Oak Bay
MIKEN	"slope covered with moss"	Beacon Hill bluff
SJEMOTEN	"...open mouth" (pouting), language of SWTONES, Songhees	Mouth of Victoria Harbour
HELENIKEN	"a stream tumbling down"	Colquitz Creek
KEMOSEN	"short cut" - portage	View Royal
SXIMALEŁ	refers to Esquimalt	Esquimalt Harbour
TÁNEL	"close", in Klallam language	Albert Head
MEK,KS	"fat nose"	sand bluff at William Head
XEL,LEN	"very fast", referring to tides	Race Rocks
WĆIÁNEW	"land of the salmon people", "W" means homeland	Beecher Bay

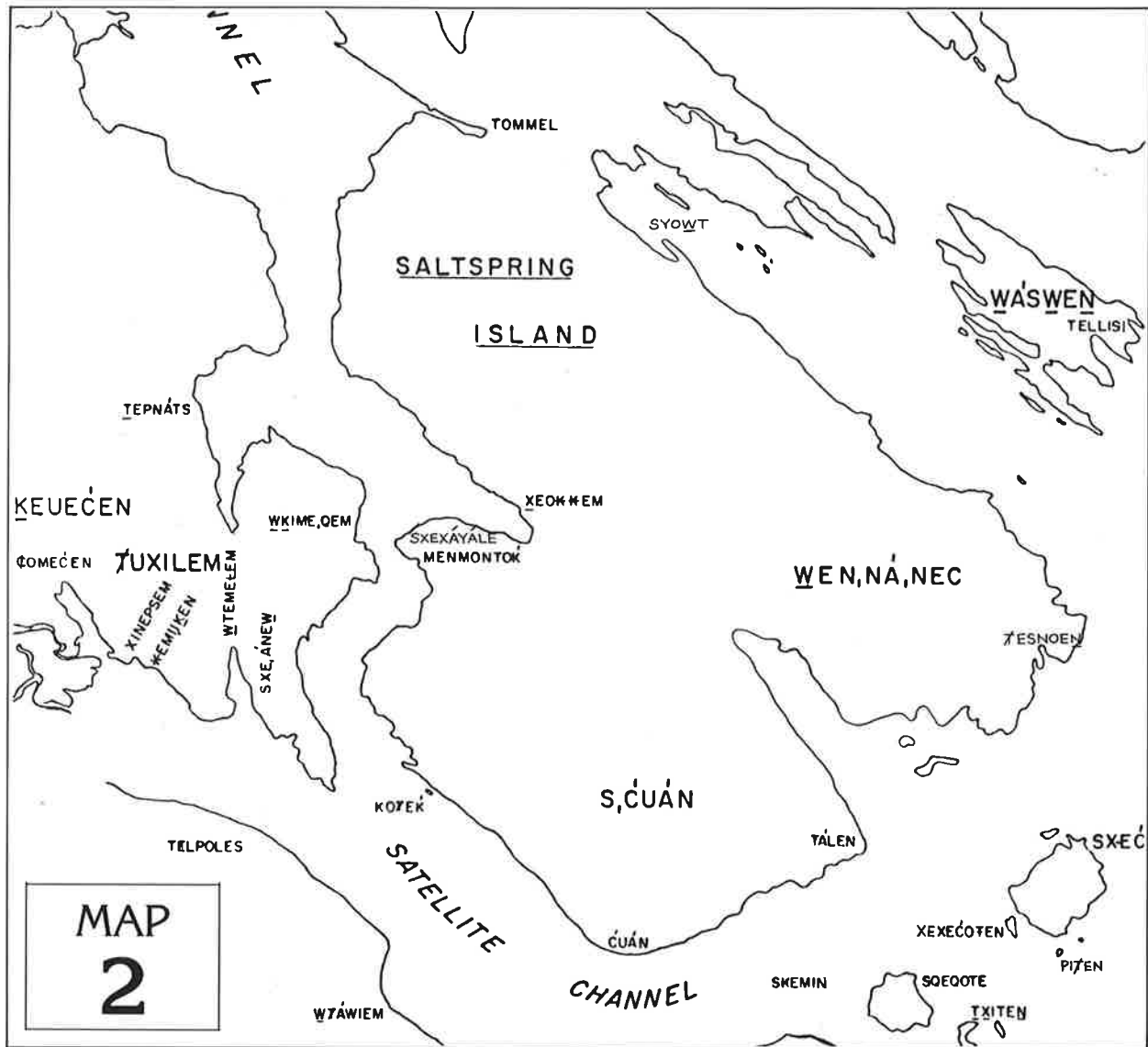
MAP
1

Gulf Islands

Saanich Peninsula/Haro Strait

<u>SENĆOŦEN</u>	<u>"Translation" and/or Significance</u>	<u>English</u>
SKEMIN	name of a little black duck you see there	Arbutus Island
SSEQOTE	"crow"	Piers Island
XEXEĆOŦEN	"little dry mouth"	Brackman Island
SXEĆOŦEN	"you can see where your mouth is", ("dry mouth")	Portland Island
PIŦEN	describes the idea of slippage, like a knot slipping down a rope	little island south of Portland Island
ŁO,LE,ĆEN	"place to leave behind", ("abandoned earth")	Moresby Island
TXITEN	"hard rocks" from TEX - "hard" & TEN - "becoming"; at low tide completely surrounded by reef rocks	Knapp Island
ŁEKTINES	"wide chest"	Coal Island
SESIÁTEN	"little hair", refers to a story about XAELS	Little Shell Island
SIÁTEN	"hair", refers to story noted above	Shell Island
PELEPWÁN	"more than one blown"	Domville & Forrest Islands
PEPWÁN	"a little one blown"	Brethour Island
PWÁN	"blown by a breeze"	little island south of Domville
XELEXÁTEM	"crossways", this island lies in a different direction than all the others	Gooch Island group
XEXÁTEM	"little crossways"	Comet Island
ŁEL,TOS	"splashed in the face"	James Island

<u>SENĆOTEN</u>	<u>"Translation" and/or Significance</u>	<u>English</u>
BOKÉĆ	"sand bluff"	South end bluff
ŁTÁĆSEN	"splashed on the neck"	NE spit of James Island
KELJIEUEŁ	"sheltered canoes", from the word for shelter	spit on centre east side of James Island
SKTÁMEN	"submerged by the waves"	Sidney Island Spit
WYOMEĆEN	"the land of caution", the beach faces the south wind so it is difficult to land here	SW point on Sidney Island
TELXOLU	"place of defeat"; halibut fishing area	west side, beach across from James Island
SKELTÁMEN	plural for SKTÁMEN, (see above)	north end of Sidney Island
KELTEMÁEKS	"bad light"	east mid side bay of Sidney Island
XEMELOSEN	"souvenir"	Sallas Rock
XOXDEŁ	an Indian name, Mother of XODEŁ (Spiden Island)	Mandarte Island
SISĆENEM	idea of sitting out for pleasure of the weather	Halibut Island
TEUXÁLEĆ	"giant" - refers to a story	James Spit sandbar
ĆTESU	"just arrived"	D'Arcy Island
ĆTISU	"little just arrived"	Little D'Arcy Island
EÁĆEĆEN	"goodbye earth", refers to the high tide concealing the reef	Zero Rock
ÁĆEĆEN	"little goodbye earth"	Little Zero Rock



MAP
2

Satellite Channel (Cowichan Territory)

<u>SENĆOTEN</u>	<u>"Translation" and/or Significance</u>	<u>English</u>
<u>TELPOLES</u>	"deep eyes", in Cowichan language referring to potholes	Cowichan Bay village
<u>KEUEĆEN</u>	"valley of sunshine", name of the Cowichan nation	Duncan area
<u>TUXILEM</u>	name of a great warrior	Tzuhlim Mountain area
<u>ĆOMEĆEN</u>	"earth mound"	Cowichan River
<u>XINEPSEM</u>	"closed neck"	village site south of <u>KEMI,IKEN</u> on Cowichan Bay
<u>KEMI,IKEN</u>	"uprooted earth edge"	village site on north side of Cowichan Bay
<u>WTEMELEM</u>	"land of the red earth", refers to ochre	Genoa Bay
<u>SXE,ÁNEW</u>	"a frog"	east side of Genoa Bay
<u>WKIME,QEM</u>	"land of the octopus"	North of Sansum Point
<u>TEPNATS</u>	"deep nights"	Maple Bay

Saltspring Island

<u>ĆUÁN</u>	"each end", refers to mountains at each end of the island	Saltspring Island
<u>WEN,NÁ,NEĆ</u>	"facing towards Saanich"	Fulford Harbour
<u>TÁLEN</u>	"salt"	Isabella Point
<u>S,ĆUÁN</u>	"one on each end", refers specifically to this place	Cape Keppel area including Tuam Mountain

<u>SENCOTEN</u>	<u>"Translation" and/or Significance</u>	<u>English</u>
KOTEK	"bird mess head"	Musgrave Rock
MENMONTOK	"stone heads", refers to a story	Bold Bluff Point
SXEXAYALE	"the crying place for everyone", refers to story of stone heads	waterfalls close to Bold Bluff Point
XOEKKEM	"land of the Sawbill"	Burgoyne Bay
TOMMEL	"warm water"	Booth Bay
SYOWT	"make it cautious", this is the first place the herring come in spring	Ganges Harbour
TESNOEN	"to be struck right on"	Beaver Point

Prevost Island

<u>WASWEN</u>	"place of seal hunting"	Prevost Island reefs
TELLISI	name of a woman who lived there	third bay from Port Lock Point on Swanson Channel

MAP
3

SCUOFEN

SMOKEĆ



MAP
3

Gulf Islands

Swanson Channel/Boundary Pass

<u>SENĆOŦEN</u>	<u>"Translation" and/or Significance</u>	<u>English</u>
Pender Islands		
S,DÁYES	"wind drying", referring to drying salmon	North Pender Island
KELAKE	"crow"	Razor Point
TELOSEN	"taking a mate"	Hope Bay
ÇAK,SEN	"seal call point"	Stanley Point
KE,KIN,ES	"chest out of the water"	James Point
SKÁETEM	"place of otters"	Otter Bay
XEXIÁĆSEN	"narrow neck"	bluffs on bay south of Otter Bay
S,KEK,FINES	"place to get chest out of the water"	Pender Bluffs
XIXĆANEM	"little running trail"	area along Swanson Channel, NW of Wallace Point
SXIXTE	XIXEXI means "narrow", SWÁLET of Pelkey family	west entrance of Bedwell Harbour
E,HO,	"did you hear?", burial ground at one time	beach at park on north side of Bedwell Harbour
ILEĆEN	"earth edge"	Port Browning
SMONEĆ	"pitch", referring to pitch for fire-starting	eastern point of South Pender
XELISEN	"lost middle", it used to be an isthmus joining North, South Pender Island	NW point Camp Bay
QENENIW	"watching the slack tide"	SE point of South Pender Island

<u>SENĆOTEN</u>	<u>"Translation" and/or Significance</u>	<u>English</u>
YEUWE	"fortune teller", from a story	Tilly Point
SXTIS	"candle neck duck"	NE point
Mayne Island		
S,KPAK	"pass" or "narrows"	Mayne Island/Active Pass
XIXNEŠETEN	"sacred track", said to be XAELS' footprint	spring on Helen Pt.
YÁIYEMNEĆ	"rising waters", (fresh water)	spring on Indian Bay
TÁWEN	"coho"	St. John Point
ONEWEL	"middle", from late Louie Pelkey	the bight west of point Miners Bay
ÁLELEN	"houses", refers to Dance Houses XIAĆEĆTEN's home	the head of Miner's Bay

Samuel Island

TEL, LÁY	"looking far away", XIAĆEĆTEN's burial island	Samuel Island, North end
XEMYÁC	"swift bay", refers to the tide	Campbell Bay to Anniversary Island includes Belle Chain Islets

Saturna Island

TEKTEKSEN	"long nose"	East Point on Saturna Island
XIXYES	"narrow caution", telling people to take caution of the narrows	Boat Passage area
WTEK,KIEM	"land of the far away waters"	Lyall Harbour

<u>SENCOTEN</u>	<u>"Translation" and/or Significance</u>	<u>English</u>
<u>WTITKIEM</u>	"land of the little far away waters"	Boot Cove
<u>SAKETSES</u>	"to dig in the pocket"	Saturna bluffs SW side facing South Pender Island
<u>AM,MECEN</u>	"to wade for crabs"	Taylor Point
<u>SNEUES</u>	"in the bay"	southside of Narvaez Bay
<u>TILES</u>	"cliffs"	northside of Narvaez Bay
<u>TIWILES</u>	"take a look"	bay across from Tumbo Island
<u>SKEUWEWEC</u>	"warming your back"; from Manson Pelkey as he remembers it from his father	on Tumbo Channel
<u>TEMOSEN</u>	"becoming a good fishing tide", tide runs in the same direction (NE) all the time	Tumbo Island

Mainland

<u>SCUOTEN</u>	idea of river mouth; <u>TELXILEM</u> , Dave Elliott's Grandfather was from here	Tsawassen
<u>SMOKEC</u>	"bluff"	Point Roberts
<u>SEMYOME</u>	name of the people at White Rock /Blaine	Semiahmoo Bay
<u>CEL,LTENEM</u>	"place to turn around", reef-net site, refers to the movement of salmon in any reef-net location	Blaine



MAP
4

San Juan Islands

<u>SENCOTEN</u>	<u>"Translation" and/or Significance</u>	<u>English</u>
Stuart Island		
<u>KENNES</u>	"whale"	Stuart Island
<u>SANNES</u>	"sacred beginnings" young men would prepare themselves for manhood by diving off the sheer sides into deep water	Turn Point
<u>HIHUKS</u>	"front nose"	east portion of Reid Harbour
<u>PEXOLES</u>	"big eyes"	point on the east mid section of Stuart Island
<u>WELEKIEM</u>	"serpent waters", refers to story	Satellite Island
<u>WTAEMEN</u>	"the sound of barnacles at low tide" in Lummi dialect	John's Island
<u>XODEL</u>	"child of <u>XOXDEL</u> ", said to be the daughter of Mandarte Island	Spiden Island
<u>WEMQIOTEN</u>	"a plant that clings to your mouth"	Cactus Island
<u>CITNEW</u>	"big owl", horned owl	Gull Rock
<u>WKIMEQEN</u>	"place of devil fish"	Flat top Island
<u>PWEN</u>	"blown"	Jones Island
<u>LELINØEL</u>	reef-net site, "paddling"	Open Bay
<u>NENANET</u>	"rocky place"	Kleett Point
<u>MÁLEQE</u>	"burial"; biggest burial ground shared by Saanich, Songhees & Lummi	Pearl Island
<u>XI,LEM</u>	"rope"	little Island north next to Pearl Island

<u>SENĆOTEN</u>	<u>"Translation" and/or Significance</u>	<u>English</u>
<u>TXENNI</u>	"grimaced," recognizes Lummi's occupation	Waldon Island
<u>TOL,LOS</u>	"way out, off-shore"	Three Tree Island

San Juan Island

<u>S,TOLĆEL</u>	"place way out"	Friday Harbour San Juan Island
<u>TKOLEKS</u>	"fresh water point"	point between Rocky Bay & Point Caution
<u>ĆKÁLETEN</u>	from <u>ĆEK</u> , "torch"	Rocky Bay
<u>XENEKSEN</u>	"fast running nose", refers to tide	Limestone Point
<u>WELÁLKĹ</u>	comes from word for singing <u>SLEHÁL</u> games	west of Limestone Point
<u>KI,ĶEL</u>	"lime", refers to lime deposits	Roche Harbour
<u>SMOÍYE</u>	"lesser" duck-net location	Wescott Bay
<u>PKÁYELWEĹ</u>	"place of ancient wood"	Mitchell Bay
<u>SXÁSEM</u>	"soap berry"	south side of Mitchell Bay
<u>SĆEHENE</u>	"driven", refers to tides	Andrew's Bay
<u>FIFEK</u>	"big head", Lummi reef-net site	Bay between Andrews Bay & Smugglers Cove
<u>W,ÁYETEN</u>	"place of ling cod"	Smuggler's Cove
<u>WTEĆ</u>	"deep place"	Deadman's Bay
<u>I,OLENEW</u>	"place of the weather becoming nice"	Pile Point
<u>SĶE,ÁNEW</u>	"calling for bad weather"	Kanaka Bay
<u>TIQENEN</u>	"place of peas", Songhees reef-net site	Cattle Point

Orcas Island

<u>TKIYEC</u>	"closed off"	Deer Harbour
<u>SWALEX</u>	Lummi dialect for reef-net site	East Sound
<u>SEPELIK</u>	"pointed head"	Mt. Constitution
<u>SJOS,S</u>	"hit on the face" from Phillip Pelkey's tapes	east side Doughty Pt.
<u>ALELEN</u>	"houses"	West Sound
<u>WMESMESILEN</u>	"opening and closing your legs continuously", refers to the tide coming in and out, from Phillip Pelkey's tapes	lagoon at Territ Beach
<u>PENAWEN</u>	"harvest", referring to camas	Patos Island
<u>WLAUKEMEN</u>	"place of mussels"	Sucia Island
<u>WSELEN</u>	"swift salmon fishing tide", Lummi dialect	Matia Island
<u>MIMIEK</u>	"small heads", from Phillip Pelkey's tapes	Barnes & Clarke Islands
<u>WLEMMI</u>	"land of the Lummi"	Lummi Island
<u>DAMWIKSEN</u>	"gooseberry place"	Gooseberry Point
<u>TXINES</u>	"bear your teeth", belongs to Laconner people of Whidbey Island	Anacortes ferry dock on Fidalgo Island
<u>WTACECEN</u>	"earth of fresh water"	Shaw Island
<u>SÇENAW</u>	"bullhead"	Bay on Point George
<u>WTISECEN</u>	"land of the pegged earth"	Lopez Island
<u>XEMXEMIŁC</u>	"place of cattail growth"	Blakely Island
<u>TIENEŁNEŁ</u>	"bleeding neck"	Cypress Island
<u>NE,ENTEN</u>	"our Mother", seal hunting place	Smith Island
<u>WCONES</u>	"to push away", Samish dialect	Deception Pass